Adjournment Motion re:

1. Management of Leper Asylum.

President.—Two statements were handed to me for moving adjournment motions. The first is that of Dr. A. R. Menon and it refers to "the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss the question of the management of the Leper Asylum by a body of Christian missionaries of the Salvation Army". The Government have not come to any definite conclusion on the matter as to whether the management should be handed over to them. There is some negotiation going on between them. Of course, the matter might be discussed in the House. But you need not understand that the Government have already committed itself to any definite decision.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I thought it better to have the adjournment just before the event instead of after the event.

President.—I welcome the discussion of this subject so that all the pros and cons might be well laid out and the Government might reconsider the position or they can drop here. So you may go on. I allow the discussion. I suppose you are prepared, Dr. Verghese. This management of the Leper Asylum by the Salvation Army—a body of Christian missionaries of the Salvation Army—that is the matter under consideration.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Yes.

President.—So that, now, an opportunity is presented to the Members of this Council to express an opinion on the point. Whether it is advisable or whether Government ought not to give over any such management or should adopt a different management. Whatever you have to say, you can say. It should be clearly understood that we have not already committed ourselves to any definite decision. The matter is open to reconsideration.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I do not know how the matter stands.

President.—We can discuss it here.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The paper was placed before the Council yesterday. There was an interpellation on the subject on the whole correspondence. So far as my Department is concerned, it has been before the Council.

President.—Are the papers before the Council?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—That question has not come up yet.

President.—Probably to-morrow or the day after it may come.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—There was a question and there I have answered. I cannot explain how the matter stands.

President.—Let there be discussion and we can know the sense of the Council. We shall take it up at 3-30 to-day. We have got another procedure. We have to see whether it is opposed. Nobody opposes. Since there is no opposition, we can take up this question at 3-30 to day.

2. *Grant to the Ernakulam Public Library and Reading Room.*

President.—The next one stands in the name of Mr. Kochunni Menon. That is with regard to the grant to the Ernakulam Public Library and Reading Room. The grant is being received for the 87th year, and it has been suspended because a general inspection was not allowed. The matter is urgent, and the order was passed only recently. The institution is intended for the benefit of the public at large,

Of course on this matter you are calling the order of the Diwan in the question that has to be discussed. Anyhow the matter has come to the attention of the Government by a second communication, where new matters have been urged. In the first place this does not partake of the nature of ordinary libraries under the grant-in-aid rules. There is a particular history connected with this Reading Room which places it on an altogether different footing. Then the Diwan's order is *ultra vires* inasmuch as he has not obtained the sanction of His Highness the Maharaja on this point you have raised and the matter is under enquiry. Under such circumstances, is it worthwhile to take up the matter for consideration ? I will call for a report from the Director of Public Instruction. Originally there was a report in which it was stated that the inspection was not allowed. Therefore, the grant was suspended.

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—We simply want the matter to be rectified and we are not particular about discussing the matter.

President.—I shall just call for the report of the Director of Public Instruction. The matter is being inquired into.

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—In that case I need not press it now.

President.—Of course, you see, though the order is passed, there is an opportunity for reconsidering the matter.

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—We have to send money for magazines and other books, at the beginning of next month.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—May be expedited.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly